

# **COS 221 HEBREW BIBLE II**

## **TORAH AND ISRAEL'S HISTORY**

Spring Heights, Spencer, WV  
Fall 2022

**First Weekend: September 16-18**

**Second Weekend: November 18-20**

Instructor: The Reverend Deborah Coble  
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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION (Goals & Objectives)**

This course interprets the critical events, developing institutions, and traditions of Israel. Attention is given to the earliest Covenants, to the Exodus, to the rise of the monarchy, the Exile and to other events up to the eighth century prophets.

After completing the course, students will be able to

1. Articulate a historical overview of the experience and faith of ancient Israel.
2. Exegete selected passages that illustrate crucial turning points in the history of Israel.
3. Apply exegesis to preaching, other pastoral responsibilities, and issues of the present day.

### **COURSE TEXTS:**

1. *The Pentateuch: Interpreting Biblical Texts*, Terence E. Fretheim, Abingdon Press; (November 1, 1996), ISBN-10: 0687008425, ISBN-13: 978-0687008421

2. *The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures*, Michael D. Coogan, Oxford University Press; 4th edition (2018), ISBN 9780190608652

### **REFERENCE TEXTS:**

3. *\*The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible*

4. *\*The New Interpreter's Bible One-Volume Commentary (IOVC)*

5. *Oxford Bible Atlas*, Adrian Curtis, Oxford University Press; 4th edition (June 15, 2009), ISBN-10: 0199560463, ISBN-13: 978-0199560462.

\*Students will have the book from a previous class or Licensing School

## **READING ASSIGNMENTS:**

### **First Weekend: September 18-20**

#### **Bible:**

Read Genesis. Pay special attention to:

the story of creation: 1-4,

the story of Abram and Sarai: 12-24

the story of Jacob and Joseph 25-50

Exodus 1-20,

Deuteronomy 5-6, 26, 31

Be sure to read the **IOVC** commentary on each passage.

Read the **IOVC** “Overview” introduction to each of these books.

*The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scripture:* chapters 1-12

*The Pentateuch: Interpreting Biblical Texts.* Pay special attention to the first two chapters.

*Oxford Bible Atlas:* pages 37-82

### **Second Weekend: November 20-22**

#### **Bible:**

Joshua 1-3, 6, 24;

1 Samuel 1-3; 16-17;

2 Samuel 5-7;

2 Kings 17-25

Nehemiah 1, 2 and 7-8;

Be sure to read the **IOVC** commentary on each passage.

Read the **IOVC** “Overview” introduction to each of these books.

General Articles in **IOVC:**

Preaching the Bible

Teaching the Bible

*The Old Testament: A Historical and Literary Introduction to the Hebrew Scripture:*

chapters 13-18, and 26-27

*Oxford Bible Atlas:* pages 83-121.

## **WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**

- **Papers are due at the beginning of the first class – you are welcome to submit papers, prior to the first class, via email to [deborahcoble@gmail.com](mailto:deborahcoble@gmail.com). Please bring a copy of all papers with you to class.**
- **Staple the pages of each paper together. Be sure to include a cover page or to have your name in the header. Be sure to keep a copy.**
- **If you want your papers returned, provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope.**
- **The Course of Study program’s expectation is that there be a total of at least 20 pages of writing for every class.**

## **Assignments:**

### **First Weekend: September 16-18:** (Two papers and an oral story)

Come to class prepared to share a story from your family of origin. This should be a story that has been passed on through oral tradition. You do not have to have it written down, but you will be expected to share with the class.

*(please pick two of these three options for Writing Assignment)*

1. Read the Abraham/Sarah stories in Genesis 12 - 24 and in partnership with the resource books for the class, write a 3-page paper on the significance of the covenant God makes with Abraham and Sarah.
2. Read Exodus 1- 24 and in partnership with the resource books for the class, write a 3-page paper on the importance of the Exodus, the Passover, and the wilderness experience for the nation of Israel.
3. Read Deuteronomy 4-6, and 26 and in partnership with the resource books for the class, write a 3-page paper on Moses' final sermon to the Hebrew nation. What are the important takeaways from these passages?

### **Second Weekend: November 18-20:** (two papers total)

1. Read 1 Samuel 3 and write a 3-page paper on the meaning of call, in ancient Israel. Briefly share your call story and what it means to be called today.
- 2 . Read Nehemiah with special attention to Chapter 8 and exegete Chapter 8:
  - What is the literary context?
  - What is the Historical – Cultural context?
  - What did this passage mean to the people when it was written?
  - What does this passage mean for us today?
  - How does this passage reveal the nature of God?

**OR**

Read Ecclesiastes 3 and exegete the passage:

- What is the literary context?
- What is the Historical – Cultural context?
- What did this passage mean to the people when it was written?
- What does this passage mean for us today?
- How does this passage reveal the nature of God?

Write a sermon based on the passage you choose. Use the “Four Pages of a Sermon” method discussed during the September weekend. Please turn in both your exegesis work and sermon. Combined this work should be 10-12 pages.

## **Submission**

1. Students must evidence their completion of course reading by submitting a reading report at each in-person gathering. The report should include name, dates that assigned chapters and biblical texts were completed, along with the student's signature. Failure to submit a reading report at the in-person gatherings will result in grade reduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week after the due date will result in an automatic "F" with no written feedback from the instructor. Assignments submitted late will be reduced 1/2 letter grade for each day that it is late. The instructor will not contact students to remind them of deadlines.
3. You are always welcome to contact the instructor via email with questions about the course assignments. Assignments received in a timely manner will be graded and returned to students prior to our in-person gatherings.
4. All papers should be typed with margins no more than 1", 12-point font, no more than double spaced, with your name in the header and page numbers. Please do not exceed the page limit. Follow the MLA format. Use the font of your choice as long as it is readable.
5. All assignments must be typed and sent as an attachment using Microsoft word only. not Microsoft Works or Word perfect. ("Save as" .doc or .docx.)

## **Grades**

The three-page papers are worth 30%;  
exegesis and sermon, 40%  
Class participation 20%  
Reading 10%

Criteria for grading:

1. How well the material is understood?
2. How well are the ideas in the paper expressed? Clarity counts.
3. How well sources are used and how well the paper is documented.

Papers may be emailed, in advance of class, to: [deborahcoble@gmail.com](mailto:deborahcoble@gmail.com)